

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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California State Senate

3/20/07 BdMtg Item 6
IRWM
Deadline: 3/8/07 12 noon

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



March 6, 2007

Ms. Tam Duduc, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Dedication of Proposition 50: Chapter 8 funds for Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan implementation

Dear Ms. Dudoc,

Many local governments and non-profit organizations have worked to create Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans (ICWMP) pursuant to Proposition 50, Chapter 8 (Integrated Regional Water Management Program, or "IRWM funds"). The ICWMPs are meant to improve coastal water quality within areas of special biological significance, and serve as a key strategy in implementing California Ocean Plan objectives.

Implementing the ICWMPs is critical for meeting the Ocean Plan discharge prohibitions in some of California's most ecologically sensitive coastal areas. In the spirit of integrated watershed management, many ICWMPs also address TMDLs, flood control, storm-water runoff, and fisheries restoration.

For these reasons, I would like to strongly encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to allocate \$30.8 million of the unallocated IRWM funds specifically towards the implementation of the ICWMPs. These funds will provide the needed flexibility necessary to implement a watershed approach to NPS pollution control and to engage stakeholders on an array of watershed restoration objectives.

I respectfully urge the State Water Resources Control Board to allocate \$30.8 million of remaining IRWM funds specifically for the implementation of Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans, and to formulate guidelines for the competitive release of these funds under suitable criteria established specifically for the ICWMP program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Wiggins".

Patricia Wiggins
Senator, 2nd District

PW:bw